

**COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Bill No. 11-49

Introduced by: Council Member Woods and Council Member Guthrie

Legislative Day No. 11-22 Date: October 11, 2011

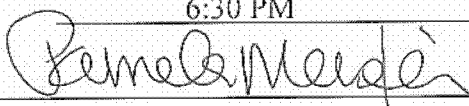
AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Subsection B(2), of Section 267-33, Signs, of Article V, Supplementary Regulations; to add new Subsection I, to Section 267-88, Specific Standards, of Article IX, Special Exceptions, all of Part 1, Standards, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to permit electronic message boards in the AG District under certain circumstances; and generally relating to signs.

By the Council, October 11, 2011

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: November 8, 2011

at: 6:30 PM

By order: , Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

_____, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [BRACKETS] indicate matter Deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates Language added to bill by amendment. Language Lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill By amendment.

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted by the Harford County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that
2 Subsection B (2), of Section 267-33, Signs, of Article V, Supplementary Regulations, be, and it
3 is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, and that new Subsection I, be added to
4 Section 267-88, Specific Standards, of Article IX, Special Exceptions, all of Part 1, Standards, of
5 Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended, all to read as follows:

6 Chapter 267. Zoning.
7 Part 1. Standards.
8 Article V. Supplementary Regulations.
9 Section 267-33. Signs.

10 B. General provisions. Signage shall be constructed in an unobtrusive manner which
11 compliments the architectural elements of quality, style, color and material of the
12 building, and the architectural period of the building(s). The following broad categories
13 of sign types are regulated by this section unless otherwise provided herein:

14 (2) Freestanding signs. The maximum area of any freestanding sign shall not exceed
15 120 square feet. The setback measured to the edge of the sign shall be equal to
16 1/3 of the required building setback. Unless otherwise provided herein, the
17 maximum height allowed for any freestanding sign is 20 feet measured from the
18 base of the sign.

19 Electronic message boards ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE RR, R1, R2, R3 AND R4 AND
20 MAY BE PERMITTED AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE AG SUBJECT TO THE
21 REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IX OF THIS CHAPTER. IN THE RO, VB, VR, B1, B2, B3,
22 CI, LI, GI AND MO DISTRICTS ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS are permitted as
23 freestanding signs and are limited to 1 single- or double-sided sign per road frontage. Temporary

or portable electronic message boards are not permitted. Electronic message boards shall not exceed 60 square feet in size, and shall display only on-premises messages, or time and/or temperature displays. An electronic message board shall consist only of alphabetic or numeric characters and shall not include any graphic, pictorial or photographic images or videos. The appearance of any animation, motion, flashing, blinking or shimmering is not permitted. A single message, or segment of a message, shall have a display time of at least 2 seconds, including the time needed to move the message onto the sign board, with all segments of the total message to be displayed within 10 seconds. A display traveling horizontally across the message Board shall move between 16 and 32 light columns per second. Requirements for display times do not apply to time and/or temperature displays.

Article IX. Special Exceptions.

Section 267-88. Specific Standards.

The special exceptions enumerated herein, in addition to other conditions as may be imposed by the Board, shall comply with the following requirements:

I. ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS. THESE SIGNS MAY BE GRANTED IN THE AG DISTRICT, PROVIDED THAT:

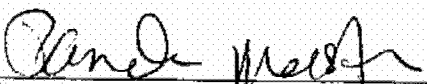
1. A LIMIT OF 1 SINGLE- OR DOUBLE- SIDED SIGN PER SITE.
2. TEMPORARY OR PORTABLE ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS ARE NOT PERMITTED.
3. SIGN AREA SHALL NOT EXCEED A TOTAL OF 36 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE.
4. THE TOTAL AREA OF THE ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARD SHALL NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE TOTAL SIGN AREA OR 12 SQUARE FEET, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
5. THE SIGN SHALL DISPLAY ONLY ON-PREMISES MESSAGES, OR TIME OR TEMPERATURE DISPLAYS.

6. A MESSAGE BOARD SHALL CONSIST ONLY OF ALPHABETIC OR
NUMERIC CHARACTERS AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY GRAPHIC,
PICTORIAL OR PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES OR VIDEOS.
7. THE APPEARANCE OF ANY ANIMATION, MOTION, FLASHING,
BLINKING OR SHIMMERING IS NOT PERMITTED.
8. A SINGLE MESSAGE, OR SEGMENT OF A MESSAGE, SHALL HAVE A
DISPLAY TIME OF AT LEAST 2 SECONDS, INCLUDING THE TIME
NEEDED TO MOVE THE MESSAGE ONTO THE SIGN BOARD, WITH ALL
SEGMENTS OF THE TOTAL MESSAGE TO BE DISPLAYED WITHIN 10
SECONDS.
9. A DISPLAY TRAVELING HORIZONTALLY ACROSS THE MESSAGE
BOARD SHALL MOVE BETWEEN 16 AND 32 LIGHT COLUMNS PER
SECOND.
10. HOURS OF OPERATION ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS SHALL BE
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. AND 10:00 P.M.
11. THE MAXIMUM SIGN HEIGHT SHALL BE 6 FEET MEASURED FROM
THE BASE OF THE SIGN.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted, that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from
the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that fifteen (15)
copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to
the public and the press.*


Council Administrator